



## PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY AWARENESS DIVISION

YOLANDA FERNANDEZ, MANAGER  
727-893-7550

### Child Abuse Arrest

For Immediate Release:  
August 11, 2017

#### Child Abuse Arrest

Detectives arrested John Gerald Whelan, DOB 2-4-76, for aggravated child abuse with great bodily harm, and child neglect, of a 5 year old boy that was in his care. Booking photo is attached.

Fire rescue and police were called to a residence in St. Petersburg at 7:42 p.m. Thursday, August 10, for a 5 year old boy having medical issues.

When the child was transported to All Children's John Hopkins hospital, doctors discovered numerous physical injuries and detectives were called to investigate.

The child had bruising and trauma to the face, rib fractures, internal bleeding and damage to organs. He remains in critical condition this morning.

Investigators say Whelan struck the boy in the head and abdomen with his closed fist. The abuse occurred over the last several months and Whelan did not seek medical attention for the child.

Report #2017-037599

